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H I P A A L E R T - l i t e

October 23, 2001

>> From Phoenix Health Systems...HIPAA Knowledge...HIPAA Solutions <<
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H I P A A n e w s

*** CERT: Security Attacks Set to Double In 2001 ***

The Washington Post reports attacks on Internet computers are on pace to easily double the number reported last year, according to statistics released last week by a government-funded security information clearinghouse, Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT). With three months still remaining in 2001, the number of security incidents (defined by CERT as "attempts, either failed or successful, to gain unauthorized access to a system or its data") reported to CERT in 2001 has already soared past the totals for 2000. If the incident reports continue at the current pace, this year could see more than twice the number of such breaches reported in 2000.

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/news/index.htm#1018wp>

*** AMA, AHA Urge Better Security & Disaster Planning ***

The American Medical Association and the American Hospital Association have issued strong advisories to healthcare providers to pay new attention to security and disaster preparedness. Both organizations are urging upgrades in emergency response and disaster plans, including strong back-up and recovery of telecommunications, information systems and data storage.

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/news/index.htm#1016advis>

*** NCVHS Asks HHS for HIPAA Privacy Modifications ***

The National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS) has released recommendations on HIPAA Privacy implementation, following

lengthy public hearings held in August. The recommendations, which are documented in an October 1, 2001 letter by the Subcommittee on Privacy and Confidentiality to HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson, address several important issues including Emergency Access, Consent, and Minimum Necessary, among others. In addition, the sub-committee recommended that HHS issue advisory opinions, best practices information, and model policies, procedures, and forms related to HIPAA compliance. The group expects to issue additional recommendations in the future, addressing research and marketing under the Privacy Rule.

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/news/2001/1001ncvhs.htm>

*** House Members Offer Comprehensive Privacy Measure ***

The U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce recently offered up a set of baseline privacy rules that companies would be required to follow in both online and offline transactions, according to ComputerWorld. The plan was one of the most comprehensive privacy proposals offered so far by lawmakers, and it drew mixed reviews from those in industry and from privacy advocates. Under the plan outlined by committee leaders, businesses would have to provide simple, easy-to-read and conspicuous privacy notices. The federal measure would preempt any state privacy laws -- a provision seen as absolutely necessary by industry to keep companies from having to follow a patchwork of varying state privacy regulations.

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/news/index.htm#1015cw>

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H I P A A l a t e s t

NEW IN HIPAACTION:

*** E-mail patients? Don't be nervous. Do be careful ***

Yes, you need to be cautious and set up a secure system. But liability risks are much less than many doctors fear, say experts.

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/action/ecommm.htm#1016mc>

*** Security Policy: What it is and Why - The Basics ***

A security policy is nothing more than a well-written strategy on protecting and maintaining availability to your network and its resources. By having a well-written policy, you should be able to react and recover from most situations in minimal time.

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/action/Security/index.htm#sanspolicy>

NEW SECTION IN HIPAAREGS:

National Individual Identifier

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/regs/natindiv/index.htm>

NEW IN HIPAAVIEWS:

*** HIPAA's Inner Workings: Data Standards Could Help You ***

One way to minimize the jolt in implementing the HIPAA data standards is to begin understanding the concepts and language of standard transactions and code sets.

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/views/index.htm#understandtcs>

ON THE CALENDAR:

DECEMBER -

December 2-4, 2001

Healthcare Security: HIPAA & Beyond Conference and Exhibition

Medical Records Institute

Renaissance Harborplace Hotel, Baltimore, MD

<http://www.medrecinst.com/conferences/security/index.shtml>

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HIPAAAlert-lite is our weekly version of HIPAAAlert, Phoenix Health Systems' acclaimed monthly e-mail newsletter.

Our Other HIPAA resources:

Web site: <http://www.hipaadvisory.com>

HIPAAlive Discussion List: <http://www.hipaadvisory.com/live/>

HIPAAnotes Weekly Byte of HIPAA: <http://www.hipaadvisory.com/notes/>

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